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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/799,149

03/12/2004

G. Fenghua Zhou

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EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, LUNA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,149

Applicant(s)

ZHOU, G. FENGHUA

Examiner

LUNA CHAMPAGNE

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CD/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's submission received on 6/25/08 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 3-15 are presented for examination. Claims 12-15 are new. Claim 2 is cancelled. The double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manucha et al.(2003/0115072 A1), in view of Nowers et al.(2003/0033205 A1), in further view of Official Notice.

Re claims 1, 7 and 11, Manucha et al. disclose a system for monitoring imports and exports, the system comprising a plurality of client computers (*see e.g. paragraph 0012*), a system wherein the client computers provide interfaces for users to maintain information on import and export materials and stocks (*see e.g. paragraph 0014*); an enterprise server, a database and a customs server, wherein: the enterprise server receives and handles input information, generates bills of entry, and transmits the bills of entry to the customs server (*see e.g. paragraph 0041*), a data maintaining module for adding, modifying, inquiring and deleting information on import and export materials and stock (*see e.g. paragraph 0014*); the database stores configured information, the bills of

entry and feedback of the customs server (*see e.g. paragraph 0019*); and the customs server receives the bills of entry from the enterprise server, generates feedback of the bills of entry, and transmits the feedback to the enterprise server (*see e.g. paragraph 0041*).

Manucha does not explicitly disclose an auditing module for auditing import and export materials based on a current stock of each material, a safe threshold volume of each material, and a consumption quantity per unit finished product, the auditing of the import materials being to ensure that the import quantity of each raw material together with the quantity of the current stock does not exceed the safe threshold volume of the raw material, the auditing of export quantities of finished products being to ensure that the consumption quantity per unit finished product corresponding to each raw material does not exceed the quantity of the current stock of the raw material

However, Nowers et al. disclose an auditing module for auditing import and export materials based on a current stock of each material, a safe threshold volume of each material, and a consumption quantity per unit finished product, the auditing of the import materials being to ensure that the import quantity of each raw material together with the quantity of the current stock does not exceed the safe threshold volume of the raw material, the auditing of export quantities of finished products being to ensure that the consumption quantity per unit finished product corresponding to each raw material does not exceed the quantity of the current stock of the raw material (*see e.g. paragraphs 0034 and 0077*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Manucha et al. and include the steps cited above, as taught by Nowers, in order to better manage inventory by minimizing overstocks while keeping current with production's needs.

Manucha, in view of Nowers et al., do not explicitly disclose a system configuring module for adding and modifying a relevant file transfer protocol, communication, and dial-up information on the system;

However, the Examiner takes official notice that it is old and well known in the communication arts to have a module that can configure system settings with respect to the communication protocols used by the system (e.g. dial up, wire/wireless LAN, and FTP). For example the examiner notes that the Windows 95, ME, 2000, and XP Operating Systems by Microsoft contain a Network Connections module that has the ability to add, modify and initialize dial up, wire/wireless LAN, and FTP as well as Bluetooth, iRDA, and TCP/IP. More specifically the examiner notes a user can add, modify and initialize a dial up connection and/or wire/wireless LAN and further add, modify and initialize FTP shared access for folders that can be shared across a network environment.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Manucha et al., in view of Nowers et al. and include a system configuring module for adding and modifying a relevant file transfer protocol, communication, and dial-up information on the system, because this module aids in the ease of configuration

thereby allowing a user to quickly manage and maintain all the communication settings for a user.

Re claims 3, 4, 8, Manucha et al. disclose a system wherein the enterprise server further comprises a bill of entry status maintaining module for storing and inquiring of statuses of the bills of entry; wherein the enterprise server further comprises a customs data synchronizing module, for synchronizing customs information based on the content of feedback from the customs server and updating corresponding bills of entry accordingly (*see e.g. paragraph 0071*).

Re claim 6, it would have been a design choice, at the time of the invention to have a system wherein the statuses of the bills of entry comprise untransmitted bill of entry, transmitted bill of entry, and bill of entry which has been fed back by the customs server.

Re claims 5, 9, 10, Manucha et al., in view of Nowers et al. do not explicitly disclose a system, wherein the bill of entry status maintaining module comprises: a bill of entry status storing sub-module for storing statuses of the bills of entry; and a bill of entry status inquiring sub-module for inquiring of the statuses of the bills of entry; wherein the step of generating a bill of entry further comprises the step of: receiving and storing feedback of the customs server; wherein the step of generating a bill of entry further comprises the steps of: determining whether the bill of entry needs to be

modified as a result of the feedback; and modifying the bill of entry accordingly and synchronizing customs information, if modification is needed; wherein the step of auditing the information on import and export materials is repeated if the result of auditing the information on import and export materials is not satisfactory.

However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is commonly known in the art to receive, store information including feedback for improvement, review and modify information until satisfaction is obtained. See for example, Eastep et al. (6,731,625 B1), where all of those steps are performed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Manucha et al., in view of Nowers et al., and include the steps cited above, in order for the system/method to perform the necessary/basic functions.

Re claims 12, 14, 13 and 15, Manucha does not explicitly disclose a system wherein the information on import and export materials comprise each material's name, quantity, unit price, total price, and time of departure; a system wherein the information on the stocks comprise the current stock of each material, the safe threshold volume of each material, and the consumption quantity per unit finished product corresponding to each raw material.

However, Nowers et al. disclose a description of the material's characteristics (see e.g. paragraph 0113) and an established threshold level is set for the material

which enables the system to monitor and take action when the established threshold level is exceeded or reached whether for imports or exports.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Manucha et al., and include the materials characteristics and stock level information, in order to better keep track of the inventory level.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUNA CHAMPAGNE whose telephone number is (571)272-7177. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Luna Champagne/
Examiner, Art Unit 3627

9/12/08

/F. Ryan Zeender/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627